

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 230328

15

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - VLTOMSETH/GBROBERTS:MFG

APPROVED BY EA - PHABIB

EA/P - AROSEN

PM/ISP - MR. BROWN (DRAFT)

EA/LC - MR. KIRKPATRICK (DRAFT)

PM/SAS - MR. JAMES (DRAFT)

L/PM - MR. BOREK

OSD/GC - HALLMAN

OSD/PA - RBEECHER

OSD/ISA - MABRAMOWITZ

----- 047254

R 182342Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INFO CSAF

CINCPACAF

USSAF/7AF

13AF

13AF ADVON

COMUSMACTHAI

635CSG U TAPAO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REQUEST TO INTERVIEW BIRD AIR

REF: (A) CINCPAC PA LNO 110703Z OCT 74

(B) STATE 226016

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

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1. WE BELIEVE HOWELL SHOULD BE GIVEN RESPONSE ALONG

FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE: SINCE BIRD AIR IS A PRIVATE COMPANY, YOU SHOULD ADDRESS YOUR REQUEST DIRECTLY TO BIRD AIR. SHOULD YOU RECEIVE BIRD AIR'S CONCURRENCE, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO FORWARD YOUR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT U TAPAO ROYAL THAI NAVAL AIR BASE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THAI AUTHORITIES. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS FULL SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OVER ITS BASE FACILITIES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO THEM, AND HAS ASKED THAT ALL MEDIA REQUESTS TO VISIT THESE FACILITIES BE HANDLED THROUGH OUR EMBASSY. UNQUOTE. YOU WOULD PRESUMABLY ALSO PROVIDE HOWELL WITH AN ADDRESS WHERE HE COULD CONTACT BIRD AIR.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO AWAIT BIRD AIR'S RESPONSE TO A DIRECT CBS APPROACH BEFORE WE MAKE ANY FINAL DECISIONS AS TO WHAT OUR NEXT MOVE MIGHT BE. YOU SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT OUR GENERAL INCLINATION IS TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO

PRESS REQUESTS OF THIS SORT. WE DO NOT WANT NEEDLESSLY TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF SECTION 29 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973 AND WE DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE BIRD AIR OPERATION. WE ALSO THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED THAI TV STATIONS WOULD BUY AND RUN CBS FOOTAGE WHICH COULD BE POLITICALLY INFLAMMATORY AND HARMFUL TO THAI INTERESTS. AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT THIS MATTER NOT DETERIORATE INTO EFFORT TO MISREPRESENT WHAT WE ARE DOING OR CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH THE THAI. WE WOULD WELCOME COMMENT FROM BOTH ACTION AND INFO ADDRESSEES.

3. PLEASE REPORT BIRD AIR'S RESPONSE TO CBS SOONEST SO THAT WE MIGHT PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT STEPS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, MILITARY BASES, JOURNALISTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE230328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: VLTOMSETH/GBROBERTS:MFG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740298-0728
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741034/aaaabcme.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) CINCPAC PA LNO 110703Z OCT 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REQUEST TO INTERVIEW BIRD AIR
TAGS: MILI, APUB, TH, US, BIRD AIR
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005